GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4072
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Survey at Mumbai High
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has started seismic survey at Mumbai High at B-157 where thousands of fishermen do fishing and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the ONGC and the contracted company have prohibited fishing for 3 to 4 months at B-157 at Mumbai High and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is aware that fisherfolk are not allowed to pass through to do fishing at neighbouring open sea;
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the likely impacts on fish transporters, ice supplier and the resultant losses likely to be suffered by them; and
(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to solve the grievance of the fishing community?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPNDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited has carried out 3D Seismic survey in B-157 area of Western Offshore from 25.01.2017 to 14.03.2017. Low to moderate fishing activities were observed during the survey in and around the area, which is approximately 65-90 Km from the shore.
(b) The entire area (around 1200 Sq. Km.) was sub-divided into sub-sectors. The contractor informed the local fishing communities in advance, about the survey work in each of such sub-sectors. Fishing activities were continued in the adjoining areas outside these small sub-sectors. After completion of survey work in a sub-sector, fishermen resumed their fishing activities in that sector. Survey in B-157 area was complet
ed in 49 days.
(c) to (e) Commissioners of Fisheries, Govt. of Maharashtra were intimated in advance about the said survey in October'2016. Also, all the regional fisheries Head of Mumbai, Konkan, Palghar, Raigada and Machimar Sharkari Samiti of Raigada, Murud were intimated in January, 2017 seeking their co-operation during the survey for better co-ordination. Fishermen were free to do fishing in the adjoining areas of the sub-sector and therefore the livelihood of fishing community including fish transporters, ice suppliers etc. was not impacted by survey. However, ONGC through its contractor has been compensating fishermen as per the provisions of the contract for the loss, if any, of fishing equipment, nets and other tools damaged during survey work.
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